Proceedings

of

THE TRAVANCORE SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY.

THIRD ASSEMBLY.

SECOND SESSION--1945/1120.

(*OFFICIAL REPORT*).

Tuesday the 20th February 1945/9th Kumbhom 1120.

The Assembly met in the Council Chamber at 12 noon with Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Dewan President, in the Chair.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following members took the oath and signed the Rolls :—

1. Mr. P. A. Kasim (*Textile Commissioner*).
2. Mr. A. Narayanan Tampi (*Director of Public Instruction*).
3. Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan (*Excise Commissioner*).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Labour Unit.

44. *MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether any fresh labour units are being organised for service ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN : May I know whether the Government have considered the present shortage of Agricultural labour in the State ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI : Yes, Sir.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN : May I know whether the Government are going to continue recruitment ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI : It is only consistent with our own requirements that further recruitment will be continued.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU (*Karunagapally* cum *Karthikapalli*) : Have we not to safe-guard the Home-front ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI : Yes, certainly.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnathur*) : How many people were recruited to the Assam Labour Corps till now?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Eighty units of 800 men each.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: How many people were recruited to the army till now?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Nearly 90,000 men.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know the number of agricultural labour available in Travancore at present?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: We have not taken correct statistics so far.

MR. V. SRIDHARAN PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavancode*): How many fresh Labour Units are being recruited at present?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Two units per mensem is the average estimated recruitment.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): May I know when the first batch started?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Years ago.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): We finished only till question No. 34 yesterday. Can we not proceed to the other remaining questions of yesterday?

PRESIDENT: The ruling is that if the questions are not answered that day they would be taken as answered. That is why they were not printed for to day.

MR. J. T. MORAIS (*Neyyattinkara* cum *Trivandrum*): May I know whether any units are being recruited to Ceylon?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: No.

MR. C. K. SANKARA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether any compensation is being paid to members of Labour Units who die in active service?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Such cases are governed by the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

MR. K. M. PAUL (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether there is considerable shortage of skilled labour?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: There is shortage of skilled labour.

MR. C. K. SANKARA PILLAI: May I know the machinery through which the Army is being paid?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: The machinery under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The officer has been authorised by the British Indian authorities.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Is it not possible for this Government to communicate to the British Government that it is not possible hereafter to recruit for Assam Labour from here?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: We cannot make any such sweeping decisions in regard to that matter. Our requirements are being taken into account and the British Indian Government have been apprised of the real situation here. It is only consistent with these aspects that we have allowed this recruitment to proceed.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*): What is the rise in wages of Labour during the last two years?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: The question does not arise.

MR. P. O. THOMAS (*Kunnathunad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to consider the stoppage of recruitment in the interest of agriculturists in the country?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: The matter will be considered.

PRESIDENT: I think I might make the matter clear. So far as the recruitment to the Armed Forces is concerned, that recruitment totalled up to 90,000 or 1,00,000 people. These recruitments have been voluntary in character and Government have taken no steps in regard to that matter, excepting to the extent that they have assured the military authorities who sent their recruiting agencies here that facilities would be given to them for recruitment. Having regard to the definite pledge made by His Highness the Maharaja at the commencement of the War that all the forces and all the resources of the State would be placed at the disposal of His Majesty for the purpose of the War, we cannot do anything by way of discouragement of that recruitment of a voluntary character to the Army. But it has been definitely pointed out by this Government to the Crown Representative through the Government of India that there is a great shortage of agricultural labour here and steps are now being taken for the purpose of making a kind of quota, namely coming to a determination as to how many will be allowed to be recruited consistently with our needs.

In regard to the Assam Labour Units, the matter stands like this. At a time when local labour was unavailable either in Assam or in East Bengal, the military authorities made a kind of appeal to every unit in the Indian Empire for the purpose of sending people to build the Burma Road and to enable battles to take place in China and in Burma. It so happened that the only two Governments which responded most readily to that appeal were those of Cochin and Travancore. From the highest authorities in England both military and civil from the highest authorities in India, both military and civil, down to the lowest, it is now agreed that the work done by the Assam Labour Unit is equal in importance, and practically equal in risk (at the outset) to the work done by the military forces. And it would not be an exaggeration to say that the ultimate result of the conquest of Burma, as soon as it does take place, will be readily conceded as being to no small extent due to the efforts of these Labour Units. As the Chief Secretary has stated 80 labour units, about 75 to 80 units of 800 people have been recruited. But it would be fallacious to think that there are 64,000 labourers at work at Assam. These 80 units formed the sum total of the recruitment. 10 to 15 units were sent back, and some are going back. At the present movement about 30,000 alone are actually doing work on the North Eastern frontier. Although 80

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[President.]

units happened to be recruited many of these recruits have been repatriated and some of the men repatriated have not gone back. Others have re-enrolled themselves. The reasons why they have re-enrolled, may be thus stated. At the beginning of this campaign, before the anti-malarial operations and the other operations for ensuring the medical welfare of the people concerned, many people contracted diseases and recruitment to Assam was not very popular in the State or in Cochin. But now with a great thoroughness, which the civil administration of India would do well to copy for the future, a very malarial region has been turned into a non-malarial one by very extensive operations conducted there. The terms offered are one rupee per day, for each person, plus clothing, plus rations, plus various other allowances, besides the benefits of the Compensation Acts and other advantages. As a result it is found difficult to retain agricultural labour here because of the attractions of the labour corps which are greater than the attractions in the regular army, because in the regular army the ordinary private is paid, *i. e.*, the Indian private is paid Rs. 19 to 21 per month, plus certain extras now, whereas an English private is paid Rs. 90 to 100 per month, and an American private Rs. 800 to 400 a month. In these circumstances the recruitment to the Assam Labour Corps has been more attractive. That point has been again very pointedly brought to the attention of Government of India and it is said that the very attractiveness makes the scarcity of agricultural labour here more accentuated. Therefore steps are being taken in close collaboration with the Government of India to see that no unnecessary depletion of agricultural or technical labour takes place here.

Assessees in Income Tax.

45. *MR. P. S. MOHAMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement by caste of the number of assessees in Income Tax (excluding Companies)?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Information as to the caste to which an assessee belongs is not available with the Department. The preparation of a caste-war list based on a reading of the names of assessees will not be possible, especially as some of these would include partnerships consisting of two or more persons belonging to different castes. Further, the number of assessees will vary from year to year.

Ettumanoor Munsiff's Court.

46. *MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state the file number in the Ettumanoor Munsiff's Court in 1116, 1117, 1118 and 1119?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*):

Year.	*O. S.*	*S. C. S.*
1116	632	330
1117	685	315
1118	1075	337
1119	894	229

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly